

Tools for the Trade

Paul Seger, Biblical Ministry Worldwide, gave a sobering presentation at the 50th Annual meeting of FOM today, September 18, 2019, and mentioned the following as trends and issues that impact or will impact US Christian Missions:

- 1 - It use to be from **the West to the Rest**. Now it's to everywhere to everywhere. Churches in foreign countries have reproduce Churches and are sending out Missionaries worldwide.
- 2 - It use to be Easy Access to the World's nations, but it is now increasingly becoming Restricted Access.
- 3 - We are slowly changing from donor-supported (from Churches and Individuals) Missionaries to self-supporting missionaries (Tent-Making). Germany needs 1000s of "IT" workers. A Christian "IT" worker in Germany could easily serve as a Tent Maker Missionary.
- 4 - From this Generation to the Next generation (vast differences). They want to do it heir way, and staying a long time is out of the picture.
- 5 - From a Colonial Pastor Model to an Equipping, Enabling Model (a Pauline Model - Paul enabled and equipped)
- 6 - From Career Missionary work to Short-term Missions. Last year the Church spend \$2.4 billion on short-term missions. We thot Short Term Missions would serve as a stepping stone to Career Missionary work, but this has not happened. Most short term populist missions require "no theological" training.
- 7 - From Gospel declaration to social justice and compassion (There is an inordinate emphasis on social justice). The Gospel is not social Justice. A good book to understand what's happen is: the Social Justice Primer by Gary Gilley.
- 8 - From supporting Americans to supporting nationals. (Some think that they can buy their way out of the Great Commission; buy their way out of going themselves.)
- 9 - From Hands off giving to hands on giving. We use to trust that the \$ we gave would be used well in missions. Now we want updates frequently, and we want to be involved is the use of our money on the field.
- 10- From cultural transformation to cultural infiltration (this is probably because of Muslim countries)

To these was added by Bruce McAllister

11 - The Barna 2017 study (Pepperdine University) should be read.

B.M conducted a survey of 1324 Pastors "in our camp".

- 514 were age 60 or older

- 993 were age 50 or older (75%)

If Churches can't replace Pastors, this WILL greatly impact Missions

Dan Anderson mentioned that Christian Schools closing has a direct impact on producing pastor. He mentioned at the heart of most of these issues, there is concept of "Self-Denial."

12 - Bill Smallman cautioned about the invisible movement of Islam to take over the world (we are not prepared)

Two more good books: *The Changing Face of World Mission*, Pocock; *Pressure Points*, Payne

Reported by Chaplain Steve Brown, Associated Gospel Churches